Abstract

A tracking and labeling system for collecting, recording and reporting data on an item as the item experiences changes in state over time. The system has a plurality of node systems connected to the Internet that transmit data to a server with database handling software. As the item is processed at various places and times, the data associated with the item is captured by the node systems and sent to the server database. At various points along the way, labels may be generated to hold a selected portion of the data associated with the item. The labels may be read by offline apparatus, as well as by the node systems. The node systems may also print labels, e.g., in 2D matrix format, for updating the data associated with an item as it is processed. In this manner, the label contains up-to-date information on the item. The system permits the entire chronologically ordered site-specific history of an item to be recalled through a query directed to the server system and therefore can be applied to various applications such as tracking the origin of food products for public health purposes. The server system can be accessed by users on the Internet.

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